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THE WILSON QUARTERLY.

VOL. 4. APRIL, 1892. No. 1.

COLLECTING IN THE GILA VALLEY.

BY F. T. PEMBER.

While collecting in Arizona, I have stopped for a week, on two occasions, at Gila Bend. This was the last of April, 1890 and again about the same date in 1891. Now this is not a summer watering-place, nor pleasure resort of any kind, neither is it a sanitarium; and every time you go there you wish you "had n't come." The town consists of a railroad eating-house and hotel, railroad boarding-house, two or three little stores and saloons, and six or eight low houses, utterly devoid of paint. There are no trees, shade, nor grassy lawns. This comprises the American part of the place. Besides there is an encampment of Papanoes Indians, with a few "Greasers." It stands on a treeless, waterless, and almost rainless part of the Arizona Desert (once the Great American Desert), in its scalding, blistering heat, and beneath a nearly cloudless sky. It has no excuse for being there at all, except that it is the nearest point on the S. P. R. R. to the Gila River for a long distance, and the company wanted a water-tank there. This they supply from a pumping station on the river, six miles away. That is why the town is there, and because it is the nearest R. R. point to the river, is why I was there. I also selected it because there are a great many giant cactus—the home of several species of woodpeckers, pigmy owls, &c.—in that locality.

The first thing in the way of birds to attract my attention, in that desert village, was a splendid pair of large, glossy ravens, which were feeding in front of the hotel and along the railroad track. They seemed to have no fear, and one could go within twenty-five feet of them. This is the Mexican raven, *Corvus corax sinuatus*. I rather envied them their skins, but did not like to shoot them there, and although I saw them every day, could not catch them "out of town." Next I found a flock of eight or ten killdeer, that seemed to make their home near the water-tank, and at least four miles from any other water. These, and a flock of Brewer's blackbirds, constituted the bird population of the place. This was on my first visit. On my next, the ravens were not there, but the killdeers and blackbirds were the same as before.

From this point it was my custom to make daily excursions to the river bottom, either on foot or by wagon; and if by the last I would make longer journeys across the desert and among the giant cactus, coming to the river several miles away. The very nearest point on the river is said to be but four miles away, though it seems ten when you walk it; and the river bottom, or lower land, is from one to two miles wide. The desert, in places, is utterly destitute of vegetation, though it usually has a few scattering greasewood bushes, from one to three or four feet high, with an occasional cactus, or group of them, which reach a height of 30 to 40 and even 50 feet. These are straight clubs, or with two or three arms, the very old ones only having from five to seven or eight branches. They are always full of woodpecker holes. The lower places, or where water settles or runs in time of rain, have mesquite, ironwood, paloverde, and other trees, usually some 25 feet high, but in places, 40 or 50 feet. On the river bottom the growth of trees, bushes, and vines is very luxuriant, so that in places it is very difficult to get through the tangle at all, or to find any game you may chance to kill. But along the outer border, or where the desert and bottom lands meet, is wonderfully fine

shooting for many of the Arizona birds. This border is three miles or more away, with little or no shooting between; but by bearing to the east for a mile, I came to one of those dry runs, with bushes and a few low trees, which increase as we follow it towards the river, and now our collecting may begin.

One of the first birds to claim our attention is the Ash-throated Flycatcher, which can be taken in any desired quantity. The pretty little Yellow-headed Tit, or Verdin, is next noticed. They are rather common, and one is likely soon to find one of their curious nests, which is some five inches in diameter and as round as an orange. They bristle all over with thorns and ends of stiff twigs, and the round entrance on the side is so small that a finger will scarcely enter it. Whether by chance or otherwise, this, of all the nests I have found, has been on the south or south-east side. Authors say the nest is in bushes four or five feet high, but I have found them at least fifteen feet high. A nest and set of the lovely little eggs are a charming addition to my collection. As we follow along, the Mockingbirds become numerous, but are exactly like those we get from one ocean to the other. Now why is it, that the desert with its wonderfully strong sunlight and lack of shade, devolopes so many pale races, sub-species and species, among so many species and genera of birds, and seems to have no influence whatever on others?

We now begin to see Gambel's Partridge, in pairs or small coveys, hurrying across the wash or running from bush to bush, while the California Shrike seems very common. The glossy Phainopepla are now plentiful, but seem rather shy, and may show you the white in their expanded wings several times before you succeed in shooting them. They, with mockers, shrikes, and ash-throated flycatchers, occur far out on the open desert. We now see sparrows of several species. Among them are Brewer's, Western Chipping, Western Lark, Black-throated, and Sage Sparrows. All along I have noticed what I supposed to be Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, but which prove to be Plumbeous Gnatcatchers, and they are very abundant in this section. Now

we come to some giant cactus and away go a pair of Gila Woodpeckers without waiting for a shot. Here is a chance to hide behind a bush and await their return, with a strong probability that you will tire of it and start on before they come back. They are wild about their nesting places, and you have to watch for them, or shoot them as they are feeding on some of the dead trees of the river bottom, where they seem tame enough.

On this route, one day I secured a pair of Baird's Woodpeckers. I can call them nothing else, though they show more white on forehead and less on back and sides of head than my Texas specimens. The central pair of rectrices are also spotted, and the peculiar smoky brown of the nasal tufts scarcely shows at all. I got these birds in the early morning, and there was something in the slant rays of sunlight coming across the desert that magnified every object, and they looked to me as large as Pileated Woodpeckers. I crept up behind some bushes and actually fired a charge of No. 8 shot at one, and when I went for my game could not understand how it could be so small. I have never seen anything like it before nor since, but in a country that can produce a mirage every day in the year, we need not be surprised at anything.

But the *arroyo* we are following broadens and deepens with large trees, and bird life increases. Quails are becoming very numerous and several species of warblers abound. Of these the Sonora Yellow, Pileolated, Western Yellowthroat, and Orange-crowned are most common, while the neat little Lucy's Warbler is by no means scarce. It is a tax on time and patience however to get many of the last, for they persist in keeping on the opposite side of a thick bush, and after you have waited awhile for a shot, away they go to another, to repeat the operation.

At length we reach the broad bottom lands of the valley, with a large growth of trees and shrubbery, and we find game more abundant and tamer than we have ever seen it anywhere. Here are Gambel's Partridge and Mourning Doves by countless thousands, and it seems as if there was a Jack Rabbit or Cotton-tail under every bush, with fresh

"signs" of deer and other large game. On my first visit there I wanted skins of a few dozen Gambel's, and I entertained the notion that No. 8 shot were the proper size to kill them with. I had but few of them with me, and to make them go as far as possible, shot the birds on the ground, in the open spaces between the bushes, where I could get from two to five at each discharge. "Not sportsman like," you say? Well, it was specimens I was there for. Besides, I do not like to carry too great a weight of cartridges, or to hunt birds out of the almost impenetrable chaparral when dropped one at a time on the wing. Time also seems too valuable when there are so many rare specimens about. After using all of my No. 8 shot and three charges of No. 12, I tried fine dust shot and found that at 25 to 30 yards I could kill as well or even better, than with larger sizes. Firing at a group of three to five, someway the little shot would find the heads of every one of them and kill them stone dead. It seemed to me that I could have killed a thousand in a day.

Doves were so numerous that one could shoot all the time, at pairs or groups of several birds. I could have killed more rabbits in a short time than I could carry. How the country furnished food for so much animal life was to me a mystery. I was told of a party that trapped 24,000 quail for the San Francisco market; thousands were shot, for their use, by people along the valley, while the R. R. eating-house was constantly supplied. This was on my first visit. The next winter a terrible flood swept over the whole valley, washing it out in places and covering it with rubbish and sediment in others. On my last visit game did not seem so abundant, though there was enough, and one could shoot more than he needed in a short time. Eggs of quail could be found easily, and I have found several fine sets in a day without looking for them. At this season all were fresh, though I saw one bird five miles out on the desert, with a flock of young the size of small chickens.

On my first afternoon's shooting here, I started a covey of Gambel's Partridges which flew into a mesquite

thicket near by. Coming close enough for a shot, I found it so dense that I could not see them, and they kept flying away until I thought that all had gone. Just then a thrush with a long curved bill flew into the same thicket, but nearly on the opposite side from me. A glimpse of something through the thick foliage, followed by a quick shot, and then comes a hunt for my bird which I may have killed or not. I had to go around the clump of mesquite, breaking my way through a dense tangle of wiry bushes, and at length find a place where I can "crawl under." Judge of my surprise when I found, not only a nice male Crissal Thrasher, but three fine male Gambel's Partridge within three feet of each other. The fine dust had found them and killed all so dead that I had not heard a flutter.

The last mentioned thrush is quite common, and Bendire's is by no means rare, while Leconte's is also often seen. Palmer's Thrasher I feel sure I saw but did not take it. Here now we may find all the birds already mentioned, and many others, such as Abert's Towhee, Green-tailed Towhee, Chaparral Cock, Gilded flicker, Plumbeous Bush Tit, and many other species.

(To be continued.)

THE NESTING OF THE BLUE-HEADED VIREO, AT FITCHBURG, MASS.

(*Vireo solitarius.*)

BY I. C. GREENE.

Previous to 1890 the nest and eggs of the Blue-headed Vireo were not known to the ornithologists in this vicinity. On May 2, when I was on one of my collecting trips, and in the deep solitudes of a thick pine wood, in a beautiful valley through which a sparkling brook of some size followed its winding course among the rocks, my eye caught sight of a small nest suspended from one of the dead limbs of a pine tree. I approached the spot and found that the nest was one of a Blue-headed Vireo.

The two birds were engaged in finishing the nest. After

watching them a short time I proceeded on my way. On May 13, I again visited the spot and found the female upon the nest. After trying for some time to frighten her from it, without success, I was obliged to climb the tree; but as the nest was out some distance from the trunk and about 10 feet from the ground, I could not get at it without cutting off the limb.

On account of the bird sitting so closely, I thought the set must be complete, so cut the limb off with my pocket saw. Through all of this disturbance, and the breaking off of several small branches, she still remained motionless, protecting her eggs. I brought the nest up close to me and tried in vain to drive her off. I stroked her head and at last took her by the bill and removed her from the nest; upon which she at once flew away, not making a sound nor showing the first signs of defense, anger, or grief; but upon alighting in the top of a tree she gave one loud, clear, call-note, which quickly brought her mate to the scene. But what was my disappointment upon looking into the nest, to find that it contained but one egg. I thought all was lost; but as this was the first nest of the kind I had ever seen, I determined to replace it if possible, and try to persuade the female to complete the set. So I took from my pocket some common white string and tied the limb back as well as could be done without a ladder. The white string was quite conspicuous, as it was necessary to suspend the broken branch from limbs above in order to have it somewhere near the original position. By this time the male had arrived and the female kept flying from tree to tree, every now and then coming very near to me, to see what I was doing. She uttered a few very soft, plaintive notes and appeared so humble, that I could but think of her grief at seeing her home disturbed. I left the tree and watched the little innocent creature approach her nest. She first flew to the branch over the place where the nest was originally, which appeared to be her accustomed way of going to the nest, and dropping down as though she expected to alight in it, fluttered a moment, then returned to the tree.

After uttering a soft cry of disappointment, she again approached her nest. This time lighting upon a branch near by. She carefully examined the nest and string, then chirping a few syllables to her mate, entered the nest, although somewhat dissatisfied with it. Her mate remained near by, flying from branch to branch over head, and expressing his sympathy in a few soft notes. At length, as if to cheer her, he perched himself upon a twig over head, and in the midst of that lonely wood, pealed forth a clear, sweet song, making the whole scene very pathetic. From their meek and innocent conduct, and from the gratitude expressed by the song of the male upon finding that the little home had not been altogether destroyed, it somewhat moved my pity for having caused these beautiful little creatures this needless distress. Had they been defiant as a Kingbird or the like, one would not be moved by the same sense of compassion.

On May 17, I again visited the Vireo's nest and found four eggs, which I took. The nest was placed in a pine tree, as above stated, on a dead, horizontal limb, about ten feet from the ground and six feet from the trunk. It was suspended by the brim from a forked branch, and was fastened to it by fine strips of fibrous bark and cobwebs. It was rather light colored, composed of fine bark fiber, mostly of the inner bark, intermingled with plant down and spider's webs ; on one side was interwoven quite a piece of newspaper, also several strips of the thin outer bark of the white birch. The nest was well made and strongly attached to the limb. It was lined with pine needles and very fine dried grass.

The eggs were of a light creamy color, with numerous small chestnut-colored spots around the large end, in the form of a wreath, some mingling into blotches. The central area was marked with fine specks of dark brown, almost black. A second nest was found on May 23. This nest was likewise in a solitary, though beautiful spot in the deep woods, and was suspended from the branch of a tall laurel bush over a bed of green ferns growing around a

large boulder, making a most beautiful scene, lighted up by the beams of bright sunlight let in through the tops of the tall pine trees.

This nest contained two eggs of the Cowbird, one of which was under the lining of the nest, as the birds had re-lined it in order to destroy the Cowbird's egg. But this was in vain, for the scamp deposited a second one when the set was half completed. This set, when complete, contained four eggs of a pure white color with spots of chestnut evenly distributed about the larger end, and not distinctly wreathed as those of the first set. A few blotches were present. The nest was not as well proportioned as the first, but was well made and of a dark color. It was composed of about the same substance as the other, and oddly enough, a piece of newspaper was conspicuously interwoven as in the other one, though they were found more than three miles apart. These nests were not ornamented at all with lichens, as is often reported to be the case.

The nest of the Blue-headed Vireo measures as follows: Diameter, outside, 3 to 4 inches; inside, $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Depth, outside, $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; inside, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The variations in the measurements of the egg are: .71 x .56 inches; .75 x .57 inches; .73 x .58 inches.

The Blue-headed Vireo arrives here from the South as early as April 22, and during the migration is to be found abundantly in the woods, but not found as common, if at all, near the houses or about the trees in the streets. They pass northward, and by the last of May become very rare in this locality. They return again in September and linger until October.

BIRDS OF HILLSBORO COUNTY, FLORIDA.

BY WILLARD ELIOT.

IN THE VICINITY OF LAKE THONOTOSASSA.

1. **Podilymbus podiceps.** PIED-BILLED GREBE.—Resident, common, breeds.

2. **Sterna antillarum.** LEAST TERN.—In the years from 1870 to 1888

the Least Tern was a summer resident at the lake, and at least fifty pairs bred on the long sand-bars in the lake. I have not seen one since 1888, for some unknown reason.

3. **Anhinga anhinga.** ANHINGA.—Resident, common.

4. **Phalacorocorax dilophus floridanus.** FLORIDA CORMORANT. Casual visitor from salt water.

5. **Pelicanus erythrorhynchus.** WHITE PELICAN.—Casual winter visitant. A fine male was killed at the lake in 1874.

6. **Pelicanus fuscus.** BROWN PELICAN.—Occasional visitor from salt water.

7. **Anas boschas.** MALLARD.—Migrant.

8. **Anas carolinensis.** GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Rare visitant.

9. **Anas discors.** BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—Rare resident.

10. **Spatula clypeata.** SHOVELLER.—Common migrant.

11. **Dafila acuta.** PINTAIL.—Common migrant.

12. **Aix sponsa.** WOOD DUCK.—Common resident.

13. **Branta canadensis.** CANADA GOOSE.—Rare. A flock of seven visited us during the three successive years 1888 to 1890.

14. **Ajaja ajaja.** ROSEATE SPOONBILL.—Rare resident. Saw a flock of three in 1891.

15. **Gnara alba.** WHITE IBIS.—Abundant Resident.

16. **Tantalus loculator.** WOOD IBIS.—Common resident.

17. **Botaurus exilis.** LEAST BITTERN.—Rare resident.

18. **Ardea occidentalis.** GREAT WHITE HERON.—Rare resident.

19. **Ardea herodias.** GREAT BLUE HERON.—Common resident.

20. **Ardea egretta.** AM. EGRET.—Common resident.

21. **Ardea candidissima.** SNOWY HERON.—Common resident.

22. **Ardea tricolor ruficollis.** LOUISIANA HERON. — Common resident.

23. **Ardea cœrulea.** LITTLE BLUE HERON.—Common resident.

24. **Ardea virescens.** GREEN HERON.—Abundant resident.

25. **Nycticorax violaceus.** YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Rare resident.

26. **Grus mexicana.** SANDHILL CRANE.—Rare resident.

27. **Rallus longirostris crepitans.** CLAPPER RAIL.—Rare resident.

28. **Ionornis martinica.** PURPLE GALLINULE.—Rare resident.

29. **Fulica americana.** AM. COOT.—Common resident.

30. **Gallinago delicata.** WILSON'S SNIPE.—Common migrant.

31. **Totanus flavipes.** YELLOW LEGS.—Common migrant.

32. **Actitis macularia.** SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—Common resident.

33. **Ægialitis vocifera.** KILLDEER.—Common resident.

34. **Colinus virginianus floridanus.** FLA. BOB-WHITE.—Abundant resident.

35. **Meleagris gallopavo.** WILD TURKEY.—Abundant resident.

36. **Zenaidura macroura.** MOURNING DOVE.—Abundant resident.

37. **Columbigallina passerina.** GROUND DOVE. — Abundant resident.

38. **Cathartes aura.** TURKEY VULTURE.—Abundant resident.

39. **Catharista atrata.** BLACK VULTURE.—Abundant resident.

40. **Elanoides forficatus.** SWALLOW-TAILED KITE.—Rare resident.

41. **Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK.—Common resident.

42. **Accipiter cooperi.** COOPER'S HAWK.—Common resident.

43. **Buteo lineatus alleni.** FLA. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.—Common resident.

44. **Haliæetus leucocephalus.** BALD EAGLE.—Common resident.

45. **Falco sparverius.** AM. SPARROW HAWK.—Abundant resident.

46. **Polyborus cheriway.** AUDUBON'S CARACARA. — Occasional visitor from lower part of country.

47. **Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis.** AM. OSPREY. — Common resident.

48. **Syrnium nebulosum.** BARRED OWL.—Common resident.

49. **Megascops asio floridanus.** FLA. SCREECH OWL.—Abundant resident.

50. **Bubo virginianus.** GREAT HORNED OWL.—Rare resident.

51. **Coccyzus americanus.** BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—Common resident.

52. **Ceryle alcyon.** BELTED KINGFISHER.—Common resident.

53. **Campephilus principalis.** IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER.—Rare resident.

54. **Dryobates villosus audubonii.** SOUTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Common resident.

55. **Dryobates pubescens.** DOWNY WOODPECKER. — Abundant resident.

56. **Ceophlœus pileatus.** PILEATED WOODPECKER.—Common resident.

57. **Melanerpes erythrocephalus.** RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Common resident.

58. **Colaptes auratus.** FLICKER.—Abundant resident.

59. **Antrostomus carolinensis.** CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.— Common resident.

60. **Chordeiles virginianus chapmani.** FLA. NIGHTHAWK. — Abundant resident.

61. **Chætura pelagica.** CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Abundant summer resident.

62. **Trochilus colubris.** RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Common resident.

63. **Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.—Common resident.

64. **Myiarchus crinitus.** CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Common resident.

65. **Sayornis phœbe.** PHŒBE.—Common resident.

66. **Cyanocitta cristata florincola.** Fla. Blue Jay.—Abundant resident.
67. **Corvus americanus floridanus.** Fla. Crow. — Abundant resident.
68. **Agelaius phœniceus.** Red-winged Blackbird. — Abundant resident.
69. **Sturnella magna.** Meadowlark.—Abundant resident.
70. **Quiscalus quiscula aglæus.** Fla. Grackle.—Common resident.
71. **Quiscalus major.** Boat-tailed Grackle.—Common resident.
72. **Pipilo erythrophthalmus alleni.** White-eyed Towhee.—Abundant resident.
73. **Cardinalis cardinalis.** Cardinal.—Abundant resident.
74. **Piranga rubra.** Summer Tanager.—Rare resident.
75. **Progne subis.** Purple Martin.—Common resident.
76. **Ampelis cedrorum.** Cedar Waxwing.—Rare resident.
77. **Lanius ludovicianus.** Loggerhead Shrike. — Abundant resident.
78. **Mimus polyglottos.** Mockingbird.—Common resident.
79. **Galeoscoptes carolinensis.** Catbird.—Common resident.
80. **Harporhynchus rufus.** Brown Thrasher.—Common resident.
81. **Thryothorus ludovicianus.** Carolina Wren. — Abundant resident.
82. **Thryothorus ludovicianus miamensis.** Fla. Wren.—Common resident.
83. **Sitta carolinensis.** White-brested Nuthatch.—Common resident.
84. **Sitta pusilla.** Brown Headed Nuthatch.—Abundant resident.
85. **Parus carolinensis.** Carolina Chickadee.—Common resident.
86. **Polioptila cærulea.** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. — Abundant resident.
87. **Turdus mustelinus.** Wood Thrush.—Common resident.
88. **Merula migratoria.** Am. Robin.—Abundant winter resident.
89. **Sialia sialis.** Bluebird.—Abundant resident.

The above list is incomplète, but it contains all the birds that I am sure of. The families of warblers, wrens, and sparrows are almost unknown to me at present. I hope to extend my knowledge of these groups considerably when I shall have gotten hold of some good reference books.

NESTING OF THE AM. LONG-EARED OWL IN MILWAUKEE CO., WIS.

BY ALLAN W. CARPENTER.

This Owl is a quite common resident of southern Wisconsin, but, like the rest of its family, is rarely observed, on account of its retiring habits.

On April 15, 1890, while on a collecting trip near Milwaukee, Wis., I made my first acquaintance with the nesting of this bird. The nest was situated in a small tamarack tree in a dense tamarack swamp, and was undoubtedly the former property of crows, several pairs of which were nesting within a few yards of the place.

When the nest was discovered the owl was sitting upon it in plain sight, and had it not been for this fact, the nest would probably have been passed by for a crow's. The owl did not leave the nest until I was half way up the tree (the nest was about 35 feet from the ground), then she flew off and glided away with noiseless flight.

The nest contained five dirty-white eggs, deposited upon a scanty lining of feathers from the owl's breast. The eggs were so badly soiled and discolored that the original color, a pure white, was hardly discoverable.

The owl (only one of the pair was noticed) stayed near during the robbing of her home, now and then flitting from tree to tree and uttering a chicking sound.

On blowing, the eggs were found to be badly incubated, but the contents were successfully removed. The dimensions of the set, which is still in my posession, are as follows: 1.62 x 1.28, 1.67 x 1.24, 1.61 x 1.30, 1.58 x 1.31, 1.63 x 1.31.

From the statement that the owl and crows breed in such close proximity it might be inferred that the two species were on friendly terms. Such, however, does not seem to be the case. Before leaving the swamp I observed a number of crows attacking and driving before them an owl of this species.

In this same swamp and on this same day, I took a set of three eggs of Red-tailed Hawk.

THE BALD EAGLE ON CURRITUCK SOUND.

BY H. H. BRIMLEY, RALEIGH, N. C.

On Currituck Sound the Bald Eagle may be classed as common.

The "Sound" is a stretch of water some forty miles long and narrow in proportion. The water is brackish — I have drank it when pushed — and shallow, and the whole expanse is the winter resort of innumerable water-fowl — Whistling Swans and Canada Geese in thousands, and ducks, Canvas-backs and Redheads especially, in tens and hundreds of thousands, if not millions. Deer are found on the "Banks," and Bear are not uncommon in the swamps. The large growth around the shores is mostly pine, and there do the Eagles make their resting place.

I well remember my first introduction to this bird. Riding along the road from the steamboat landing to my host's house, seated in the straw at the bottom of the cart that was drawn by a festive steer of pig-headed proclivities, when overhead loomed a great, shadowy form through the gathering dusk of the January evening, and my first Bald Eagle passed out of sight into the surrounding gloom.

To prepare a collection of the water-fowl of the state was my object, and during the time that I stayed I had good opportunities of studying the habits of the Eagles. It was rarely that a good, searching look all around would fail to detect one or more of these noble birds, and frequently, several would be in sight at once.

My host owned and controlled quite a lot of marsh suitable for point shooting, and also, some of the small, outlaying islands much frequented by ducks and geese, all being free to his boarders. He employed some four or five professional gunners, who killed ducks for the market when not employed in providing sport for the guests of the house.

On one occasion two of them were shooting over a stand of decoys set off the point of "Five Islands." A bunch of Redheads swung down over the stools, leaving several of their number on the water as the gunners let then have it.

Before the men had time to leave the blind and take out their boat after the cripples, a large Bald Eagle swept over the water, picked up one of the ducks, brought it to the Island close to the blind, there to be discussed at leisure. This was too much for the gunners ; the Eagle was promptly laid low and left where it fell. It was some days before I heard of this, it being too common an occurrence to be thought worthy of special mention. I went out to "Five Islands" as soon as I could after hearing of it, but found the specimen too far gone to be saved. It was a very large female in adult plumage. I saved one of the claws, and some New Yorkers who came along about then in the light-house tender, saved the other.

As near as I could estimate, there were not less than two hundred professional gunners shooting on the Sound, and besides these there are the members of some seven or eight ducking clubs, as well as a number of individual sportsmen.

The immense amount of shooting done by this army of hunters results in thousands of crippled fowl, and on these the Eagles feed and grow fat. Although I have never been there in Summer time, I presume the Ospreys keep the larder supplied then ; in Winter their services are not required.

Once, when weary of waiting in a blind for the fowl that did not come, I had a good chance to watch the performances of an Eagle in persuit of his dinner. Several hundred yards away was a large flock of Coots feeding, diving with an effort and a splash, as these birds do ; the noise of their movements being distinctly audible where I stood. Suddenly a Bald Eagle appeared on the scene, sailing low over the Coots, not more than three or four feet above the water. The birds in his immediate vicinity dived or flew on a few yards and always, for a small space around him, there was a patch of clear water, while beyond that the Coots were as thick as fleas on a white dog in Summer time. The Eagle kept quartering back and forth for some time, occasionally making a dash at a bird that had let him get a little too close, but always unsuccessfully. This was kept up for

quite a while until the whole flock gradually worked out of sight. Industry was apparently unrewarded in this case.

Knowing that I wished to kill an Eagle, one of the farm hands offered one day to take me within gunshot of a pair. He was hauling pine straw with a cart and yoke of steers, and said that if I would get into the cart, he would drive me right beneath a pine in which were a pair of them. I grabbed my gun and a few shells loaded with No. 1, and jumped into the cart in a hurry. By and by we came within sight of the tree; and there they were sure enough, two splendid white-headed fellows, the sight of which set my heart thumping like the recoil of an old musket loaded for "baar." On we went, the cart jerking and jolting over the stumps and prostrate sticks until right beneath the tree. This was my first experience of being within gunshot of an Eagle, and to say that I was flurried is putting it mildly. Instead of jumping out and taking a fair shot from solid ground, I stayed in the cart, aimed at the lower one of the two, and fired just as the wheel of the cart flopped down in a rut. The shot went somewhere, probably not within ten yards of what I aimed at, and as the birds left the tree, I gave them the other barrel — with like success. I pass over the next five minutes: what was said was not for publication, but only as a guarantee of my good faith.

In driving over to the store at the steamer landing on the canal, the Albemarle and Chesapeake, one day, an Eagle was seen on a sand bar, running out into Coinjock Bay, feeding. I got out of the buggy and with my .38 Smith and Wesson in hand, crept up behind the bushes as near as I could. The Eagle saw me and rose, and I gave him all five bullets as quick as I could pull trigger, but he did not stop. In fact he seemed quite in a hurry to get away.

On several occasions in coming back home through the pines, one of these great birds would crash out of the trees in front and sometimes a snap shot would be tried, always unsuccessfully, however. To tell the truth I did not kill an Eagle while I was there, but could probably have collected

a few had I devoted much time to them. One of the gunners finally procured me an adult male, and with that I had to be satisfied.

Immature, dark-brown specimens were sometimes seen, but were not as plentiful as the full-plumaged white-heads. The natives call the dark birds Washington, or Gray Eagles.

I have taken it for granted that crippled ducks form the chief food item of the Currituck Sound Eagles in Winter almost entirely from hearsay evidence, and I do not think I am mistaken in this, as the evidence of the market gunners all points that way. Frequently could the great birds be seen carrying something in their claws about the size of a duck, and from the ease with which the cripples could be caught along the edges of the marsh, and from what I saw and heard, the conclusion is natural that the Eagle of this locality is an epicure, living principally on the flesh of the toothsome Redhead and Canvas-back.

Regarding their nesting I have no data to give. I was told, however, that there were no less than three nests on one single island, and I see no reason to doubt the statement. From their abundance it seems to me probable that they must nest in some numbers along the shores of the Sound; and from their wary habits, and the fact that they are not much molested, or systematically hunted, either for themselves or their eggs, I think it will be years before this noble bird is driven from his chosen home and well-filled larder on Currituck Sound.

A BIRD OF THE NORTHLAND.

(*Spizella monticola.*)

BY HARRY E. MILLER, S. E. N. Y. STATE.

In the last days of the tenth month, golden October, when all the leaves have fallen strewing the ground with a tinted carpet of many colors; when the days are slowly growing colder, reminding us that winter is soon to reign over the rest of the seasons; after other songsters have

flown far away southward to remain till the bright, joyous Spring succeeds the reign of "King Winter," there comes a flock of little birds from many miles to the northward, to our yards, gardens, and fields, singing their sweet little melodies, their calls sounding cheerfully over the keen frosty air.

The Tree, or Canada Sparrow, breeds above the boundary of our country, spending the last part of the fall, winter, and early spring in eastern North America. In appearance this bird is much like the Chipping Sparrow, but as the last named is not a winter resident you are not liable to get the two species confounded. A reddish-brown crown, more or less dusky in the center of the breast, and shades of yellow, brown, and gray constitute the colors of our Canadian visitor.

The little Tree Sparrow is fond of sheltered glens where food is plenty, where the sun strikes the warmest: here you may find them in flocks and squads feeding on the scattered seeds which they can find, allowing you to approach very near without inciting to flight, for this sparrow is not classed amongst the shy birds. No matter how cold it may be he seems always cheerful. Sitting close to a limb with the feathers fluffed up, is a position we see him in often when it is very cold. The best time to observe these birds is generally in the morning when the largest number are together, for later in the day they break up into squads, each party feeding by itself. The Tree Sparrow, as far as I know, has a peaceable character, attending to his own business, which employs all his time, without interfering with other birds' rights and movements.

A flock of these sparrows numbering about two hundred spent the past winter in my locality giving me ample means to study their songs and movements; but this is the first visit they have made to this vicinity as far as I can find out.

The song of the Canada Sparrow is superior to that of any of our local Sparrows; most of the songs, heard by the writer were in the morning between seven and ten. Why

this is so, I do not know unless the birds are glad that "grub time" has come again after the long night's rest. Often when the thermometer is down to zero, one may hear them singing away as if their little throats would split. I am quite positive that this bird does not sing on the ground, but when musically inclined mounts to some position above "terra firma." Most of the notes, for that matter all of them, are clear, bell-like, and decided. A bird singing in winter will be noticed, the song highly appreciated, and if any sweet notes prevail will be noted by the listener more so than when the woods, fields, and yards are full of songbirds. The Tree Sparrow's songs, of which it has a number, have but a slight rising and falling from the beginning to the end. Some of the notes, particularly, will be distinguished from the rest by their liquid, bell-like trembling. The first song in clear silvery notes is as follows: "*tee-dee-tee-dee-tee-dee-dee.*" The last three notes uttered in much quicker time than the first four, which are especially clear, while on the last three there is a slight falling inflection, just enough to make it all the more beautiful. Some songster sometimes includes these notes in the first song which, of all the writer has heard, are the most beautiful, tender, and clear; "*te-a-de-a-te-a-de-a,*" with the longest pause on the "a," where the quivering bell-tone becomes the most noticeable. These last notes are often uttered devoid of any other notes, making what we will call the second song, with a short but very pleasing character. Third song: "*chee-chee-a-chee-chee-che-a.*" Fourth song: "*tee-dee-che-a-che-a.*" The notes already described are not entirely restricted to songs, but are often uttered separately as if used for alarm or calls.

Again, it has a warbling chatter, used a great deal of the time when feeding, as if conversing with each other. The chatter is uttered with a full voice but not extremely so; the notes, from their round and steady flow, seem to run together: that is, from their character, one note is hardly distinguishable from the others. One might say the chatter is a reproduction of some of the song-notes usually

expressed in a lower and harsher key: still it is pleasant and cheerful.

Besides all the notes so far spoken of, the Canada Sparrow has two separate notes used for calls, alarm, etc. First: "*che-ep*:" well pronounced, the most stress on the "p." Second: "*te-e*:" much like the first but shorter and not as a usual thing uttered with so loud a voice. From careful study the writer believes that he has included all of the notes of our little northern boarder who pays his board with his songs.

If once you have heard the Tree Sparrow's songs, I know you will be watching for them in the last part of next fall when no more is heard the warblings of the birds that have flown far away to the southland. Yet Nature has provided that this bird shall sing to us after she has placed an icy seal on the brook, has robbed us for a while of the flowers, the foliage, and the green grass, has covered the earth with a thick blanket of snow: still these little birds are bright, active, and cheerful, vieing with each other in making the air respond with clear, liquid music.

THE RED-EYED VIREO.

BY WILL. X. COLTON, BIDDEFORD, ME.

The Red-eyed Vireo is a Summer resident here, and although I have seldom noticed it breeding in York County, nests of this species have been frequently found by the writer in Penobscot County in the northern part of the state.

The nest is usually rather neat and compact, still much variation is exhibited in this respect. One of the first I ever found, I remember, was so large and sprawling that I was at a loss for a time, to what species to assign the nest.

In 1887 I took a series of seven sets, the eggs varying little, in either size or markings; the reddish-brown dots being sprinkled without uniformity or plan, sparingly on the larger end. This is unlike the eggs of its fellow breeder,

the American Redstart; the markings on the eggs of the latter being wreathed.

The site I found to be invariably a bush, usually elder; preference being given to a sharp, upright crotch, which gives the nest a peculiar "squeezed" shape. Most of my nests were found while walking along secluded lanes or old cart paths.

The nest is constructed of grass and vegetable fibers; on the outside, bits of leaves and bark.

This Vireo has many curious and interesting traits, and a careful study of its habits will be well repaid. Its song is not the least of its charms; a sweet, though simple strain, suggesting brightness and joy on the part of the performer, and good will to all around.

HOW TO PREPARE EGGS FOR THE CABINET.

We give the method of blowing and preparing eggs for the cabinet from a letter recently received from one of the veteran collectors of the seventies.

We give only the extracts from his letter which relate directly to the instruments used and methods of use, together with his directions for constructing the same.

We have personally witnessed the use of them and they are certainly a decided improvement over the old method of blowing with the mouth.

He says, "I prefer glass blowpipes. I buy the glass tubing at a drug-store and use a spirit-lamp with a ⅜ inch round wick and draw them out with points suitable for large, medium, or very small eggs. My experience with eggs that have been partially incubated is that holding the blowpipe outside of the drill hole, while blowing, is a good deal like feeling on the outside of a barn to tell how much grain it contains.

"The easiest and quickest way to blow eggs is with a blowpipe attached to a rubber bulb, having a valve in the opposite end. I think any one would appreciate a hand

blower after being 'humped up' for an hour or more, blowing away for dear life—eggs, I should say—on a lot of eggs that have been set on for four or five days, or long enough so the white has become thick and tough. After the eggs are blown they can be rinsed out very quickly with a Tater blowpipe, which has been described in a number of amateur papers. Small, fresh eggs can also be blown with it. I can assure the readers of THE WILSON QUARTERLY that it will be far easier than squirting water into an egg-shell, with one's mouth, through a blowpipe. After preparing seventy or eighty eggs at one sitting you will be ready to testify that it has saved you about half a ton of face-ache.

"I made my washer five years ago. I will describe it and the hand blower. I might also add that the total cost of both was about one dollar.

"I took a tin bucket, that holds about one and one-half gallons, to a tinker and had a small tin tube, two inches long, inserted in the side close to the bottom, and a wire bent like the letter U soldered on the side of the bucket so it would project an inch above the rim. Then I bought two feet of ¼ inch rubber pipe and slipped one end on the tin tube, into the other end I inserted a glass nozzle—of which I have two sizes.

"When I wish to use it I hang it up over the work bench so that it cannot turn or swing, place the tube just behind the nozzle in the bent wire at rim and fill with water.

"For the blower I took the valve from the end of an atomizer and fitted it into one end of a rubber bulb; this bulb being heavier and more durable than the one from which the valve was taken. Into the other end of the bulb insert a small glass tube. Before doing this I made a stand for the blow pipe by taking a block of hard wood one inch thick, four inches wide, and five inches long; set a post in it—near one end—four inches high and one inch by three-quarters. The post inclines several degrees from perpendicular towards the shorter end of the block. Near the top of the post bore a hole slanting so that when the blow-

pipe is in position it will be at an angle of forty-five degrees. This prevents the water or the contents of the egg from running back and making a muss on the bench.

"Whenever I have any eggs to attend to, I take a basin with a little water in it and place the stand beside it, with the post overhanging the edge. Then push a blowpipe through the hole in post and couple it to the tube in bulb with a piece of small, thin rubber tube, perhaps an inch long. I like this arrangement better than sticking the bulb on the end of the blowpipe for two reasons: it is easier, and it does not wiggle the pipe and endanger a fragile egg. It takes about two minutes to set up and take apart the whole concern.

Of course such an outfit is not practicable for blowing in the field. I have now two perfect glass blowpipes that I have carried over ten thousand miles in cars and in stage."

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The reports received are of such a varied character that it has been found impossible to present this report in any thing but a general way. Before a systematic report can be made on the migrations it will be necessary to gather in a greater and more carefully prepared mass of notes. It is but fair to say that a large number of the notes used in this report were sent in response to a circular issued, calling for general rather than specific notes.

In the present report an attempt has been made to trace the distribution of each species east and west, north and south, without burdening the report with a mass of details. We have not sought to accomplish any thing beyond estimating the Fringilline fauna of each locality from which notes have come, and the relative abundance of each species. With the small number of localities represented nothing more than an approximation of the geographical distribution can be presented. In the report which is to follow we hope to have every state east of the plains

between the Gulf and Ocean, and the Lakes represented. If this be accomplished we shall be able to trace each species from north to south, and from east to west wherever it is to be found, with a comparison of its distribution in every state.

The present report contains notes from Texas, Iowa, Wis., Ills., Ohio, Penn., N. Y., Conn., N. Carolina. I wish to express my gratitude to the gentlemen who have contributed notes to this report giving it whatever of value it may possess: Messrs. John A. Donald, Texas; Reuben M. Strong, C. P. Howe, J. N. Clark, Allan W. Carpenter, Wis.; F. A Gregory, F. M. McElfresh, Ills.; J. Warren Jacobs, Penn.; D. D. Stone, N. Y.; John H. Sage, Conn.; S. W. P Smithwick, N. Carolina. Notes have also been received from Frank L. Burns, Berwyn, Penn.; H. P. T. Weathern, West Farmington, Me.; Willard Eliot, Thonotosassa, Fla. These notes are reserved for the report which is to follow upon the more specific migration and distribution.

We desire a complete list of the Fringillidæ from every member, with the statement as to whether it is a migrant (T. V.), summer resident (S R.), winter visitant, (W. V.), resident, (R.), or accidental visitor (A. V.); and also the abundance of each species. With these general notes send any and all notes upon migration, giving exact dates in every case, and also notes upon breeding. *We want exact notes!*

514. *Coccothraustes vespertina.* Evening Grosbeak.

This Grosbeak is known as a wanderer: occurring in a place in great numbers at one time and not being seen again perhaps for years. And yet there are localities where it may be expected to pay nearly regular winter visits. Mr. Strong finds it to be an irregular winter visitor near Milwaukee, Wis., being seen from Oct. 15 to rarely as late as Apr. 18, usually in small numbers. Mr. J. N. Clark reports it to be a common W. V. from Nov. to Mar. at Meridian, Wis. Mr. McElfresh captured a female Mar. 18, 1891, at Champaign, Ills. At Grinnell, Iowa, I have seen

but few. A small flock was seen during the spring migration of 1886 and a single flock of twenty Dec. 11, 1886, but none since. At Oberlin, O., the bird is an A. V. (accidental visitor.)

515. *Pinicola enucleator.* Pine Grosbeak.

Although not accidental like the last, nor of wandering habits, this is yet not a well known bird to our observers. It appears from the extreme north only during cold winters. Mr. Strong considers it rare at Milwaukee, Wis., while Mr. Clark, at Meridian, Wis., finds it to be common from Dec. to Mar. Mr. D. D. Stone also finds it common at Lansing, N. Y. At Grinnell, Ia., it is rare, but few specimens having been taken. At Oberlin, O., it is also a rare W. V.

517. *Carpodacus purpureus.* Purple Finch.

The Purple Finch is pretty well known to all observers. Its song, no less striking than its rich colors, makes it a conspicuous object of the woodland. Mr. Strong considers it an irregular T. V. at Milwaukee, and rare. But Mr. Clark records it as a common migrant at Meridian. Mr. Gregory finds it at Rockford, Ills. Mr. D. D. Stone finds it a common S. R. at Lansing, N. Y. Mr. J. W. P. Smithwick finds it a common T. V. as far south as Sans Souci, N. C. Mr. John A. Donald says that it is accidental at Decatur, Texas. Both at Grinnell, Iowa and Oberlin, O., I have found it a common T. V., often associating with Goldfinches.

521. *Loxia curvirostra minor.* Am. Crossbill.

All observers consider this species rare. It is a hardy bird, and, like the Evening Grosbeak, is much of a wanderer. Mr. Strong says that it is irregular in winter, some times occurring in great numbers, at Milwaukee; Mr. Clark finds it a rare W. V. at Meridian; Mr. Carpenter enters one Apr. 11, 1891, on the authority of Mr. E. P. Carlton at Madison, Wis. Mr. Stone marks it "rare W. V." at Lansing, N. Y. It is not common either at Grinnell, Iowa or Oberlin, O., though there are usually a few seen each winter.

522. *Loxia leucoptera.* White-winged Crossbill.

Both Strong at Milwaukee, and Stone at Lansing, N. Y., find this bird a rare W. V. In Iowa and Ohio it is also a rare W. V., not as well known as the preceding. It seems to be almost an unknown quantity among observers.

528. *Acanthis linaria.* Red-poll.

Another northern species which visits our northern observers only during the coldest weather. Mr. Strong found it common during the winter of 1889-90, but none 1890-91. Messrs. Clark at Meridian, Wis. and Stone, at Lansing, N. Y., find it abundant from Nov. to Feb. Red-poll comes sweeping into central Iowa in immense flocks during cold stormy weather. I have seen hundreds on the weeds by the roadside while snow was being driven by a north-west gale. At Oberlin, O., it is only a tolerably common winter visitor.

529. *Spinus tristis.* Am. Goldfinch.

Who does not know the Goldfinch? The variety of its local names suggests familiarity. It is the "Flaxfinch," "Thistle-bird," "Wild Canary," "Yellow-bird," "Lettuce-bird," Salad-bird," "Sunflower-bird." It is an ornament to every door-yard. It is an abundant S. R. at Madison and Milwaukee, Wis., and an abundant resident at Lansing, N. Y. At Meridian, Wis. Mr. Clark finds it common all the year, as it also is in Iowa and Ohio. It is perhaps more common during the summer. In Ills. it is common with Mr. Gregory. At Sans Souci, N. C., Mr. Smithwick finds it during the winter only; while Mr. Donald, at Dacatur, Texas, says, that while some individuals remain all winter, the most go further south, all coming from the north. At the last two mentioned stations Goldfinch would naturally not remain to breed but migrate north; but at all the other places we should expect it to be resident. It may not be out of place to mention the fact that Goldfinch changes his plumage to a plain drab in winter, and that his general appearance and even his voice is often so different from his summer habit that he might easily be mistaken for some other sparrow. To you more

northern observers who have hitherto found him only in summer allow me to suggest that it would be of great interest to make a careful study of Goldfinch and see if you do not find him in winter also.

533. *Spinus pinus.* Pine Siskin.

This is one of the little known but interesting sparrows, rather northern in its habitat. Mr. Strong finds it irregularly at Milwaukee, Wis. Mr. Stone records it as tolerably common in winter at Lansing, N. Y. It is common during the migrations both at Ginnell, Iowa and Oberlin, O. Its song once learned, there is no difficulty in recognizing it.

534. *Plectrophenax nivalis.* Snowflake.

Of all the sparrows, Snowflake is undoubtedly the one which we are most glad to see. Sweeping down upon us like the advance guard of an army, themselves the forerunner of the driving snow-storm, they are life in the death cold. Their songs are like angel voices from the black angry clouds. It is truly an inspiration to watch an immense flock, such as sweeps down upon Milwaukee and Meridian, Wis., and Lansing and Pittsburgh, N. Y., as it swirls and eddies in the van of the storm among the first falling flakes. In Ohio I have never seen such a sight, but in Iowa it is not rare. Their southern range is about 39°, rarely they have gone as far as 35°; hence our southern observers could hardly expect to find this interesting sparrow at their homes.

536. *Calcarius lapponicus.* Lapland Longspur.

It is commonly considered to be true that Snowflake is replaced by this Longspur at the south; but there is no note made of it by Southern observers. Doubtless they are too far south. It is an irregular winter visitor at Milwaukee, but common at Meridian, Wis., from Oct. to Apr. in stubble fields, occurring in large flocks. It is also common at Grinnell, Iowa, during the winter, but rare at Oberlin, O.

537. *Calcarius pictus.* Smith's Longspur.

This Longspur seems to have escaped our observers entirely. It is so common at Grinnell, Iowa, during the winter and late into the spring that it is a conspicuous

feature of the bird fauna. Its note is destinctive, and its colors attractive. I find a note in the *O. & O.* Vol. XIII, p. 95, of the capture of two specimens of this Longspur at Garretsville, O., Jan. 29, 1888, by Mr. Clark P. Streator. The note is interesting from so far east.

538. *Calcarius ornatus.* Chestnut-colored Longspur.

If we would learn more of this interesting Longspur we must work on the plains, for it very rarely reaches the Mississippi river in its eastern movement. Mr. Donald finds it in winter as a common bird at Decatur, Texas. Once only have I found it at Grinnell, Iowa; during the spring of 1887 when there seemed to be a general eastward movement of all species. Then a flock of several hundred remained about Grinnell for several weeks. Many were in full plumage and full song.

539. *Rhynchophanes mccownii.* McCown's Longspur.

Like the last this is a bird of the plains. Mr. Donald finds it abundantly at Decatur, Texas. It was one of the species which wandered east during the spring of 1887, reaching Grinnell, Iowa, March 3. The flock of about 20 departed the 8th.

540. *Poocætes gramineus.* Vesper Sparrow.

As we have reason to expect, this wide-spread species is pretty fully reported upon, and is evidently well known to all. It is an abundant summer resident at Milwaukee, Meridian, and Waukesha, Wis., as reported by Messrs. Strong, Clark, and Howe, also at Lansing, N. Y. But only common at Madison, Wis., Waynesburgh, Penn., Rockford, Ills., and Grinnell, Iowa; while at Decatur, Texas, it is only a tolerably common winter visitor. It is abundant at Oberlin, O., during the migrations, but I have not found it breeding.

542a. *Ammodramus sandwichensis savanna.* Savanna Sparrow.

At Meridian and Madison, Wis., this is a rare summer resident. At Lansing, N. Y., common; at Portland, Conn., as found by Mr. John H. Sage, common in summer but abundant in fall; at Sans Souci, N. C., tolerably common

in winter; and at Decatur, Texas, tolerably common. I have found it to be common both in Ohio and Iowa, as a summer resident.

545. *Ammodramus bairdii*. Baird's Bunting.

For this interesting bunting there are but two records. Mr. Donald considers it a common migrant in Texas, and I have found it at Grinnell, Iowa. It is another of our birds which inhabit the plains.

546. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. Yellow-winged Sparrow.

It is surprising that a bird of such wide distribution as this one should be so little known. All observers consider it rare. At Waynesburgh, Penn., and Portland, Conn., it is a rare S. R.: and at Decatur, Texas, a rare migrant. Mr. Gregory finds it at Rockford, Ills. It is not common at Oberlin, O.: but really abundant in central Iowa. Its song is distinctive.

547. *Ammodramus henslowii*. Henslow's Sparrow.

Another obscure bird of the Miss. Valley. It is a common summer resident at Grinnell, Iowa. It will doubtless be found by observers in Ills., Wis., Mo., Kan., and Neb. Its delicate little voice is easily drowned by the louder prairie voices.

548. *Ammodramus leconteii*. Leconte's Sparrow.

This is also a Miss. Valley species, being found in Ills., Mo., Kan., Neb., Texas and the states bordering the Miss. river. It is not uncommon in central Iowa.

549. *Ammodramus caudacutus*. Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Mr. Donald was so fortunate as to capture this bird at Decatur, Texas, Jan. 28 and 29, 1890. It was accidental there, since the species is confined to the S. E. Atlantic and Gulf states.

549a. *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni*. Nelson's Sparrow.

Mr. Sage is the only observer who has found this sparrow, strangely enough at Portland, Conn., when it is considered a Miss. Valley bird. He finds it only as a migrant in Sept. and Oct.

549b. *Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*. Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Like the last, the one record is from Mr. Sage, Portland, Conn. It is a rare migrant, found only in Sept. and Oct.

550. *Ammodramus maritimus*. Seaside Sparrow.

Mr. Smithwick is the only observer to record this maritime species. He finds it rarely at Sans Souci, N. C. in winter.

552. *Chondestes grammacus*. Lark Sparrow.

It is interesting to notice the eastern limit of this species. At Waynesburgh, Penn., it is rare; at Oberlin, O., not common; at Rockford, Ills., and Milwaukee, Wis., common; and at Grinnell, Iowa, and Decatur, Texas, abundant. Messrs. Clark, Carpenter, and Howe consider it rare in Wis.; doubtless they are in an unfavorable position to study it. We thus see that the true home of the Lark Sparrow is the Miss. Valley, breeding everywhere.

553. *Zonotrichia querula*. Harris's Sparrow.

It is unfortunate that there are not fuller notes upon this, the largest of our sparrows. It would be interesting to trace its range from east to west. Unlike the last, this bird does not breed within our limits. At Meridian, Wis., Mr. Clark says it is a "straggling T. V." In central Iowa it is a common T. V., while at Decatur, Texas, it is an abundant W. V.

554. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. White-crowned Sparrow.

This species is also more common west and north than in the extreme east and south. Mr. Sage says that it is a rare migrant at Portland, Conn., and Mr. Donald does not consider it common at Decatur, Texas. Messrs. Strong and Clark report it as a common migrant in Wis., and Mr. Stone as the same at Lansing, N. Y. In Iowa it is common both in spring and fall, but much less common in Ohio.

558. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. White-throated Sparrow.

This is one of the well known sparrows throughout nearly the whole range of our observers. It is a true migrant except in its extreme southern range, where it remains all winter. Strong and Carpenter report it abundant in Wis.,

Gregory and McElfresh common in Ills., Sage common in Conn., Smithwick common in N. C., but Donald rare in Texas. It is abundant both in Iowa and Ohio.

559. *Spizella monticola*. Tree Sparrow.

There is no more familiar figure of the winter landscape than the Tree Sparrow. It is interesting to note how far south we may expect to find him. Messrs. Strong, Clark, and Carpenter report it as abundant in Wis., Jacobs abundant at Waynesburg, Penn., Stone common in N. Y., and Sage common in Conn. Mr. Strong is the only observer who does not find it all winter. It is abundant all winter in both Iowa and Ohio. Thus we see that our more southern observers have not found it at all, and yet it is usually found as far south as 34°. Mr. Donald is just below its southern range.

560. *Spizella socialis*. Chipping Sparrow.

All except Mr. Donald send reports upon Chippy. Every where it is "conspicuously present" and well known. Four observers from Wis.—Strong, Clarke, Howe, Carpenter—report it as abundant. Messrs. Gregory and McElfresh find it common in Ills., Mr. Jacobs says it is abundant in western Penn., Mr. Stone says the same for N. Y., while Mr. Sage regards it as only common in Conn. All of the above observers report it as a summer resident. Mr. Smithwick finds it all the year at Sans Souci, N. C. In Iowa and Ohio it is an abundant S. R.

561. *Spizella pallida*. Clay-colored Sparrow.

This bird is so easily confounded with other species of this genus that one might easily overlook it. I found it rather common at Grinnell, Iowa, but secured no positive evidence of its breeding in the vicinity. It doubtless does further west and north. This is one of the Miss. Valley species.

563. *Spizella pusilla*. Field Sparrow.

This sparrow is one of those upon which nearly all agree; and the disagreement, when there is any, is due to the difference of geographical situation rather than to any inconstancy of the bird itself. Messrs. Clark, Carpenter, and

Howe agree that it is abundant in Wis., but Mr. Strong regards it as only common at Milwaukee. Mr. Gregory finds it in Ills.: Mr. Jacobs says it is abundant in western Penn.: Mr. Stone, common in N. Y.: Mr. Sage, common S. R., rare R., in Conn.: Mr. Smithwick, common R. at Sans Souci, N. C.: Mr. Donald, abundant W. V., common R., at Decatur, Texas. It is a very abundant S. R. both in Iowa and Ohio. Thus we see that, northerly, it is a summer resident, while at the south, and even in Conn., some individuals are found during the whole year.

567. *Junco hyemalis*. Black Snowbird; Junco.

We naturally associate Junco and Tree Sparrow together: but their range is not just the same, as will be seen from the following reports: Messrs. Strong, Clark, Howe, and Carpenter report it as abundant in Wis., Messrs. Gregory and McElfresh find it in Ills.: Mr. Stone says it is abundant in N. Y. All of these gentlemen report it as a migrant. In Iowa and Ohio it is the same. But Mr. Smithwick finds it commonly all winter at Sans Souci, N. C., and Mr. Donald says it is abundant all winter at Decatur, Texas. Thus its wintering limit is below that of Tree Sparrow, and consequently its southern range is further south.

580b. *Peucæa ruficeps eremœca*. Rock Sparrow.

This rare south-western sub-species is recorded by Mr. Donald as accidental at Decatur, Texas. It has been found at other places in Texas also.

581. *Melospiza fasciata*. Song Sparrow.

So well known a sparrow as this calls forth reports from every quarter. We can hardly get beyond its range this side of the mountains. Messrs. Strong and Carpenter report it abundant all summer in their localities in Wis., but Messrs. Clark and Howe consider it only common. Mr. Gregory is well acquainted with Ills. birds. Mr. Jacobs says it is an abundant S. R. but rare R. at Waynesburgh, Penn.; while Mr. Stone says it is an abundant S. R. only in N. Y. Mr. Sage lists it "R. common S. R." Mr. Smithwick finds it only in winter in N. C., and Mr. Donald

as a migrant in Texas. It is an abundant S. R., never R., in both Iowa and Ohio in the northern part.

583. *Melospiza lincolni.* Lincoln's Sparrow.

The similarity of this species to the last, together with its scarcity in many places, causes it to be pretty generally overlooked. Mr. Stone thinks he has found it as a rare S. R. at Lansing, N. Y. Mr. Donald finds it a rare migrant in Texas. I have found it tolerably common in Iowa, but uncommon in Ohio.

584. *Melospiza georgiana.* Swamp Sparrow.

The numbers in which Swamp Sparrow is found seems to depend upon the local surroundings. Thus, in Wis., Messrs. Strong and Carpenter, at Milwaukee and Madison, find it an abundant S. R.: while Messrs. Clark and Howe, at Meridian and Waukesha, find it only common. So also Mr. Jacobs records it as rare in western Penn., while it is common in Ohio, and common also with Mr. Stone in N. Y. Mr. Sage records it as abundant in Conn. Everywhere thus far, and in Iowa, it is a S. R.; but Mr. Smithwick finds it only in winter in N. C.

585. *Passerella iliaca.* Fox Sparrow.

Another well known bird of wide distribution. Messrs. Strong and Clark say that it is a common migrant in Wis.; Mr. McElfresh finds it in Ills.: it is a common migrant in Iowa and Ohio; Mr. Stone says it is rare in N. Y.; Mr. Sage that it is common in Conn.; Mr. Smithwick finds it common in winter in N. C.; and so does Mr. Donald in Texas. It breeds north of our borders.

587. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus.* Towhee; Chewink.

North of Texas Towhee is only a summer resident. In Texas Mr. Donald says it is found only in winter. In Iowa it is abundant, and also in Ills., according to Messrs. Gregory and McElfresh. In Wis. it is abundant at Madison (Carpenter), common at Waukesha (Howe), and Meridian (Clark), and tolerably common at Milwaukee (Strong). In Ohio it is abundant; but Mr. Stone says of it, "very rare S. R. in N. Y."

593. *Cardinalis cardinalis.* Cardinal.

This interesting species scarcely comes far enough north to be seen by many of our observers. It is resident wherever found. I have seen but one at Grinnell, Iowa. Mr. McElfresh finds it common in Ills.; and it is common in Oberlin, O. Mr. Donald says of it at Decatur, Texas: "Common S. R.: more common in winter."

595. *Habia ludoviciana.* Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Our southern observers do not find this Grosbeak at all. In Iowa it is abundant in summer. All four Wis. observers list it as abundant S. R.: likewise Gregory and McElfresh in Ills. Mr. Stone says it is a rare S. R. in N. Y. In Ohio it is common all summer.

597. *Guiraca cærulea.* Blue Grosbeak.

This southern Grosbeak has been found by Mr. Donald as a rare S. R. at Decatur, Texas. It migrates north to southern Ills.

598. *Passerina cyanea.* Indigobird.

Another species unknown to the southern observers, but a conspicuous figure in northern woodlands. Messrs. Strong and Clark say that it is a common S. R. in Wis.: Mr. Carpenter finds it rare at Madison. Mr. Gregory finds it in Ills. In Iowa it is a common S. R.: not so common in Ohio. Mr. Stone says it is a common S. R. in N. Y.

601. *Passerina ciris.* Painted Bunting: Nonpareil.

The range of the Nonpareil closely corresponds to that of the Blue Grosbeak. Mr. Donald finds it a common S. R. in Texas.

604. *Spiza americana.* Dickcissel.

The records for this very interesting little bunting are few indeed. It is decidedly more numerous west than east. In Ohio it is a rare S. R. Mr. Gregory finds it in Ills. Mr. Strong records a single specimen taken near Milwaukee by Mr. Akely, June 9, 1890. In Iowa Dickcissel is our most abundant bird. Mr. Donald records it as an abundant S. R. in Texas. The range of this bunting is changing. It will be interesting to note its progress.

605. *Calamospiza melanocorys.* Lark Bunting.

We have only Mr. Donald's record for this bird of the plains. At Decatur, Texas, Mr. Donald says it is rare. It has never been found in Iowa.

LYNDS JONES,
Chairman of Committee.

Mr. Frank L. Burns is preparing a very interesting and valuable report for the Oological Committee, of which he is the chairman.

CONSTITUTION OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CHAPTER, A. A.

ARTICLE I. Name.

The Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association.

ARTICLE II. Object.

The promotion of American Ornithology and Oology by systematic investigation and the publication of the results.

ARTICLE III. Membership.

Membership shall consist of Active and Associate members.

Active members only can vote and hold office.

Any student of birds in the United States may be admitted to Associate membership by the President.

Active members shall be limited in number by the Executive Council: provided that the number shall not exceed one hundred, or be limited to less than twenty-five, except by a majority vote of the Active members.

Active members shall pay annually, in advance, one dollar to the Secretary of the Chapter, for which amount they shall receive the official organ and all publications of the Chapter.

Active members may be admitted semi-annually by a majority vote of the Active members, after recommendation by the Executive Council.

Application for Active membership should be made to the Secretary.

Non-payment of dues for one year shall cancel their name from the roll of Active membership.

50 cents shall be charged Associate members.

ARTICLE IV. Officers.

The officers shall be a President and a Secretary, to be elected annually.

The President shall have the general management of the Chapter, direct the investigations and prepare the results for publication in such forms as directed by the Executive Council, and appoint all committees, with the exception of the Executive Council.

The Secretary shall perform the customary duties of such an officer, and prepare the necessary reports of the Chapter.

ARTICLE V. Executive Council.

The Executive Council shall consist of the President, who shall be chairman, ex officio, the Secretary, and three other Active members elected annually.

The Council shall act upon all motions, petitions, and plans not conflicting with this Constitution, and on matters referred to them elsewhere in this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI. State Division.

Organizations of all the members of the Chapter in any state may be perfected when ten members are enrolled from that state.

These Divisions may elect their own officers and make their By-Laws, provided that the By-Laws are approved by the Executive Council.

The President of each Division shall, under the direction of the President of the Chapter, have charge of the investigations in that state.

ARTICLE VII. Expulsions.

The Executive Council shall constitute a committee which shall have power to expel any member who is proved unworthy of membership.

The decision of the Executive Council can be over-ruled only by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments.

This Constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing.

LYNDS JONES, President. J. WARREN JACOBS, Secretary.

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EDITORIAL.

In assuming control of the official organ of the chapter, the members have virtually agreed to support the paper, if it should not prove self-supporting, until such time as it shall pay its own way. There is no better way of giving it support than by seeking to advertise it as widely as possible by soliciting subscriptions. There is no reason whatever why the July issue should not have a circulation of 500 copies if each member will make even a moderate effort to secure subscriptions. The business manager and editor will naturally be expected to do much more than any other members, but they cannot do it all.

Our paper is a credit to the chapter, and has been highly spoken of by the *Auk*, the leading journal of Ornithology in America. No effort will be spared to make each issue more excellent than the last.

It cannot be a money-making scheme for any one, because the magazine is the property of the organization. Hence its managers must render their accounts to the chapter as a whole, as its owner.

Let each member enter into the work heartily, determined to make our paper second to none in the field which it occupies.

The excellence of the paper will depend upon the interest taken in preparing articles, notes, and reports for its pages. We cannot offer each other prizes for best articles, but we can offer the first place and honorable mention to the best report which is forwarded to the President during the coming summer.

THE WORK FOR 1892.

In the January issue of *The Taxidermist* we announced the scheme for work during the coming season. The group of Owls was selected not because it might prove interesting to all, but because it seemed too little known by very many members. The object always in view is to direct study in such a way and along such lines as will bring the most that is new and valuable to the greatest number.

Thus far the lists that have come in have been good; but there should be more of them. Every member should not fail to make out his list and send it to the President at once if he has not done so already.

In order that all may not fail to understand what the work is, we copy the scehme from *The Taxidermist*.

"1st. As soon as you have read this make out and send to the President of the chapter a list of all the *owls* known in your locality, noting whether each is a resident, summer resident, transient (or migrant), or accidental. Whether abundant, common, tolerably common, or rare. Whether it breeds near you commonly, rarely, or not at all.

"2d. Study its habits carefully, noting where it stays; what is its food; whether it flies during the day; whether it is harassed by crows and jays; whether it approaches dwellings; how it is affected by weather; what is its cry; study its courtship.

"3d. Breeding habits. Note: Whether it builds a nest or not; when it begins to build or lay. To what extent it

appropriates old nests. Where is the nest situated. Proximity to dwellings. Actions when its nest is disturbed. Whether its cry is different than at other times. Study carefully all about the eggs; number, size, shape, color. Period of incubation. Whether the male assists in nidification. How long the young remain in the nest after hatching. What is their food. Whether they differ from the old in color. Whether there are marked phases of plumage during development.

"4th. Habits after the breeding season closes. Note: How long families remain together. When the moult begins; when it ends. How the birds employ their time. Economic bearing: Relations to poultry; to rodents; to insects.

"Whatever other points not given above occur to you, or appear as you proceed with your study, do not fail to make a note of them."

The benefit of the season's work to you will be measured by the earnestness and faithfulness of your own individual work.

NOTES.

Mr. Maxfield, the former publisher of the *Semi-Annual*, has found it impossible to publish the October number. His business was such that time could not be given to the paper. All will be sorry that this is so. To make good the loss we will forward to each member any back number of the *Semi-Annual*, or an extra number of the QUARTERLY, at their option.

We take pleasure in calling the attention of all to the work of Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C. The Capt. is preparing the life histories of North American birds, accompanied by plates of eggs, especially of the rarer species, and many illustrations. He desires information from all who may have interesting notes upon any species included between A. O. U. 382 and

the Juncos. Already the first volume is in press and will be ready for distribution by Sept. next. It contains 414 pages of text, with index, etc., making the whole volume about 450 pages. Samples of the text may be found in the *Forest and Stream*, of Jan. 14, and Feb. 25, 1892, on Gamble's Partridge and Bald Eagle. All should be interested to contribute notes toward this work.

Any one who contemplates entering upon any work should ask himself: "Of what benefit will it be to me? Will it pay for the effort expended upon it?" If, after careful consideration, he decides to undertake it, he may reasonably expect that he shall receive interest upon whatever capital he may have put into it, provided he exert himself sufficiently to make it bear interest.

Many who contemplate entering into the work of any organization like the Wilson Chapter, may ask: "In what lies the advantage of membership in this over any other similar organization? Is there any advantage?" We do not presume to say in regard to the Wilson Chapter. Very likely it presents no advantages over other similar organizations. Its method is simply co-operation in study. Those who constitute the organization largely determine, each one for himself, the value of the organization as an aid in the study of our favorite science. Each worker has the advantage of becoming acquainted with the results of the work of all the others, and better than that, with the *methods* of work of each one. The best work is always systematized. If each of us will give careful attention to the forth-coming reports upon the various groups of birds, and to all that have been presented, we shall be able to select fron each one some points of excellence which may enter into our own method and be of value to us.

A great advantage of our work is that it extends over a very large area—from Canada to Florida, California, and Minnesota. Not all, indeed, very few, of the intervening places are now represented, especialy the west and north; but these extremes always give us the extremes of variation. As new members come in, filling up the centre, as

they do constantly, we shall not only have the extremes of variations, but will also be able to trace the variation from extreme to extreme.

To those who are just entering the field, our system of investigation cannot but be of service, in that it teaches them how to study, how to observe and note things as they occur. To those who are already initiated, the organization is a benefit, in that it gives them a wider range of study—something beyond their personal range. To those who desire to gain position in the ornithological field it is an aid in gaining that position. It offers a channel through which they may make their work known to those who are the leaders. It stimulates them to better work. To those who are already masters of the science the system commends itself for its disinterestedness in personal elevation, as well as its scheme of wide co-operation, aiming to bring together, as far as possible, those who could not otherwise know each other.

That the work of the chapter is worthy the name is assured by the fact that those who are the most interested in American ornithology seek after our reports. We now have on our table requests from the leaders in the science for back numbers of the *Semi-Annual* in which reports have appeared. This is encouraging. The results cannot but increase in value as the methods become more and more systematized. At first what we did was but little more than an experiment, now we enter upon the work confident of the results.

We cordially invite all who are interested in our work to join our ranks and so have a part in it. For further information concerning the organization,—its membership, official organ, and other details,—we refer the reader to our advertising page.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Ornithologist and Oologist. Vol. XVII, Nos. 1, 2, 3. Published by F. B. Webster Co., Hyde Park, Mass., at $1.00 per year. It is too well known to require mention here.

The Taxidermist. Vol. I, Nos. 4 to 9, 1891–2.

A twenty page monthly devoted to practical taxidermy, but treating on ornithology and oology, arranged alike for the amateur and the profesional naturalist. Subscription 50c. a year. A bright, well edited paper, steadily improving. Published by C. F. Mignin, Akron, Ohio.

The Collectors' Monthly. Vol. II, No. 12. Vol. III, Nos. 2 and 4. A monthly magazine devoted to Ornithology, Oology, and Entomology; consisting of twelve pages of interesting and valuable matter. Subscription 30c. a year. Published by Chas. H. Prince, Danielsonville, Conn.

The Empire State Exchange. Vol. III, No. 2.

A monthly for collectors. Published by Perrine Bros., Eden Valley, N. Y. 50c. a year.

California Traveler and Naturalist. Vol. I, No. 2. A monthly, official organ of the Audubon Chapter, Agassiz Scientific Association, published by N. L. Hertz & Co., Napa, Cala. Subscription 35c a year. A promising young magazine of the west.

FREMDE EIER IM NEST.

(ANOTHER BIRD'S EGGS IN THE NEST.)

An 8vo 122 pp volume recently published by Dr. Paul Leverkühn, C. M. A. O. U., C. M. Z. S., etc., of Munich. It is an unique work, printed in German in large type on good paper. It is offered for sale to Americans through the Dr's. agent, Mr. A. E. Pettit, Box 2060, New York City, at $2.00 per volume.

The author discusses at length and very carefully the behavior of the parent birds to eggs deposited by other birds

in their nest, or eggs put in by men. The work itself is given greater value by the copious foot-notes in which not only authorities are cited, but instances are given as proof of what he has said. American literature is freely refered to, showing the author's familiarity with ornithology and his wide range of knowledge. Even obscure journals are searched and the grains of gold picked out from the trash.

He is highly praised by his contemporaries as a man of keen wit, quick to see matters of interest, and yet cautious and painstaking in his work. The Dr.'s book is well worth the reading and we are glad to recommend it to all lovers of birds.—L. J.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE.

Looking back over the history of the chapter organs, we see the little *Curlew*, then the department in the *Semi-Annual*, and now the QUARTERLY, and are moved to say as the editor of one of our esteemed contemporaries in his review of the *Curlew* said: "Tail aches from little toe corns grow; David knocked Goliah out with a pebble, and the upsetting of a lantern laid Chicago in ashes. We never can tell what may result from small beginnings."

The QUARTERLY is not a money-making venture, but is supported by the chapter as its organ, and its publisher is merely a servant.

It is proposed to keep future numbers of the QUARTERLY equal in every respect to the present issue, and to make such improvements as shall be warranted by its success.

Receiving proper support from the chapter, with the good rates we have received from our printers, we are confident of success.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Brief special announcements, "Wants" or "Exchanges" will be inserted in this department at the rate of 25 words for 25c.: more than 25 words at one-half cent per extra word. Notices which are indirect methods of obtaining cash purchasers cannot be admitted. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Terms, cash with order.

TAKE NOTICE!—I have a few fine sets of St. Domingo Grebe 1-4 and 1-5 for exchange @ $1.00 each. Sets or singles under 50c. desired.
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ATTENTION, RELIABLE COLLECTORS.—J. Warren Jacobs, Waynesburgh, Pa., will have, during '92, fine sets with complete data to exchange for same. Nests furnished when desired.

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